Classes for 2016

At this point in the year we begin to consider class structures for the following year. I would like to ask parents who may be moving or taking an extended vacation to please let us know in writing as soon as possible. This will allow us to either take your child’s placement off the class lists for next year or keep them on while they are still on vacation. Also if you have a particular request related to classes next year could you please put this in writing and forward it to Mr Mansfield for consideration. We will do what we can to accommodate reasonable requests where they do not run at odds with the broader educational factors.

Kindergarten 2016

Yesterday was our final orientation day for Kindergarten students beginning in 2016. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm of the pre-schoolers exploring Big School over the last three weeks. We encourage everyone to now ensure that they have lodged enrolment forms for their child so that they can be included in class planning for next year.

A big thank you goes out to Mrs Allen who organised and ran our orientation program so well! If you require any further information regarding enrolment, please contact our friendly office staff.

Best Start Assessment appointment times are due back to the school this week. Notification of appointment times will be posted to the parents in December.

Attendance

As most parents would be aware, we have been working towards improving our school attendance rates as part of our three year school plan. Some progress has been made in the return of notes explaining absences and we have seen a reduction in the number of students going home early when events such as assemblies finish. One area we can still make progress on is in the number of whole days absent. Whilst some students are dealing with chronic health issues or perhaps experience some nasty bouts of the

Congratulations to Isabella in KN who won the fruit box kindly donated by Highlands Grace
‘flu’, we still have a large number of students who appear to take days off for less than compelling reasons. Perhaps it was a late night or a big weekend. Sometimes it may be a case of not feeling like going to school. Perhaps it may even be that mum or dad are just finding it tough to get everyone going. Whatever the reason, the more days a child misses, the more difficult it is to pick up the threads of learning and build on their existing knowledge. Subjects such as mathematics can really become difficult when this occurs, causing the child to prefer to stay home even more frequently. Similarly, a child absent from school frequently finds it harder to fit in socially and can feel left out. To sum all of this up, if you truly care about your child and their ongoing success, show your love for them by sending them to school every day that they are well enough to be here. It is mistaken kindness to give them days off when it is not necessary to do so. One of the strongest factors in success at school both academically and socially is a high rate of attendance. A recent examination of our data revealed that over a hundred students had an attendance of less than 90%. That amounts to a day or more off each fortnight. Is that your child? Please help us to help them have the happiest and most successful time at school possible by sending them to school every day they are well enough to be here!

Sticks and Stones

On Wednesday 11 November, students will attend an anti-bullying performance entitled Sticks and Stones. The Sticks and Stones program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. Students will learn the importance of asking for help, helping others and making good decisions. The cost of attending the performance is covered in the book pack fees. Anti-bullying is an important topic covered in the PDHPE curriculum for all students from K-6. This performance will reinforce the anti-bullying strategies teachers are teaching their students.

Survey for Year 4 Camp 2016

A very important survey was sent home for the current Year 3 students going into Year 4. The survey seeks parental opinion on changing the venue for the Year 4 camp. Year 4 has traditionally attended Woolelemai. This year will be the final year we intend to visit Woolelemai. The alternate site we have chosen is the **Optimum Outdoor Experience at Fitzroy Falls**. We plan to visit this camp in spring 2016.

We are seeking parental advice before booking as the cost of this camp is greater than Woolelemai due to the
fact that this camp is fully and professionally catered, the accommodation is of a higher standard and the camp staff are involved in all activities, including night time fun activities.

We would appreciate as many parents as possible considering this camp and returning the survey as soon as possible.

Stage 2 Market Day: Wednesday 2 December

All Stage 2 classes, including Year 2 in 2/3P are beginning preparations for their Market Day, which is the culmination of our study of being sensible with money. Many of the classes have sent notes home describing what is happening and detailing class responsibilities.

This market day is also our Stage 2 Grand-friends Day, we hope many Grand-friends can come along and join in the fun activities, have a sausage sizzle, a drink, cake, play some games, watch a Stage dance, ...the list goes on. More detail will be included in the next few newsletters.

Swim School

Swim School places are filling fast. Parents considering sending their children to Swim School are urged to return the notes and money as soon as possible. Should parents be concerned about finances in regards to swim school, please approach the school to discuss this matter. Parents may speak to their child’s class teacher, Mrs Penn or Mr Mansfield.

Swim School is offered every year for students from Year 2. Years 2, 3 and 4 will be given priority in this very important and valuable opportunity. The cost of the Swim School is slightly greater this year due to the need to move the lessons from Mittagong Pool to Moss Vale Pool. We request that parents consider this valuable opportunity and submit notes and money at your earliest convenience.

Report Format Changes

As a regular part of school evaluations and reviews, it has been decided that part of our school report will be modified. The main change however has been to remove the comments from the ‘Other Key Learning Areas’ portion of the report for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. This portion has been replaced with a grid style, tick box which indicates the subject, effort and academic achievement, as illustrated in the diagram. All other sections (English/ Mathematics/ General Comments/ Work Habits/ Additional Programs remain as previously presented. Should this cause concern or confusion, please feel free to speak to your child’s class teacher.

There have also been quite substantial changes to the report for the Gibraltar class and 3–6 M. For these changes, please see your child’s class teacher.

Chess Championship

This week our Chess Club students will battle it out with Bowral Public School for the Perpetual Chess trophy. The competition was established a few years ago between our two schools and so far Bowral have proven to be formidable opponents. We will see how the tally of games finishes for the year tomorrow. All the best Mittagong!

New “Oliver” Library System

During Term 4, 2015 Mittagong Public School is transferring to the Department of Education’s new Library Operating System which has been named Oliver. It takes 12 weeks for the new system to be established and finalised.

To help us transition to the new system, Mrs Bell-Mackie needs help from each and every one of you. Please return any books you have borrowed by 13 November 2015.
Canberra Education Rebate

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education.

To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government has contributed funding of $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Kindy News

Kindergarten students are very excited with our Symbio excursion next Tuesday. Permission notes and money will need to be returned by this Friday. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child’s teacher or Mrs Allen, as we are wanting all Kindergarten students to attend this fun filled day. Students will need to take their school bags with a packed recess and lunch, water bottle and hat.

As the weather has been unpredictable of late, please dress children in layers of school uniform that can be removed. Enclosed, sensible shoes are needed on the day as there will be a lot of walking.

This week’s junior assembly will be presented by KS with KH performing an item. All family and friends are invited to come along to the school hall at 12:20pm.

Junior Choir

The award winning Junior Choir will be the special guest stars at the sing-along on Monday 23 November at the Uniting Church in Mittagong.

Notes and permission slips have gone home with the students in this choir.
P&C News

Family Fun(draiser)
Thank you to all the families who can come to the Family Fun(draiser) on Sunday in the COLA and Hall. We are hoping that the weather will improve, but rain, hail or shine, it will go ahead. Bring a picnic blanket if the weather looks promising. Please enter the school via the Bessemer Street gate. It all kicks off at 4.30pm, but if you can come a little earlier and help set up, please contact Sarah Farnese on 0414 963 383.

Can you bake?
To assist in our fundraising efforts, we would really appreciate contributions of trays of slice to sell at Sunday’s Family Fun(draiser). Please bring it with you on Sunday (for those coming) or drop it in to Cindy at the Canteen on Friday. Please include a list of ingredients.

School Sunshades
Thank you to everyone who ordered School Sunshades, which will be sent home with your child/ren soon. This has been popular and a small number of additional pairs will be available for sale at the Office for $15 a pair. If these are sold out, you can place an order at the Office.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Brochures for the last fundraiser of the year have now gone out to families. This is for tubs of cookie dough for some delicious home baking over the holidays. Give to family and friends as thankyou gifts and raise money for the school. Orders must be returned by Monday 16 November with delivery of the cookie dough scheduled for Thursday 3 December.

Where does the money go?
Have you wondered what the P&C does with the money it raises? Through the many fundraising events organised and run by the P&C, the P&C is able to provide money to the school for important resources to assist and support student learning and opportunities. Recently, the P&C donated $20,000 towards new laptops, tablets and a charging trolley for the school. Check out our Facebook page for photos.

From the Canteen
We need your help: Cindy has the doors wide open for any new Volunteers! Even if you only have a hour to cook something up, call Cindy and have a chat 0435 842 035. Last Day: The Canteen will be open ‘til the last day of term, Wednesday 16 December.
Parent Reminder: Please check the meals available on the days you are ordering for! We are getting too many orders off the days menu!

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School Calendar 2015

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<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov Term 4 Week 5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 School Council 5:30pm</td>
<td>4 Kindy Orientation 3</td>
<td>5 Year 6 cake stall</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>P&amp;C mtg 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Chess</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Junior assembly</td>
<td>P&amp;C Fun (draiser)</td>
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<td>Nov Term 4 Week 6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Kindy Symbio</td>
<td>11 Sticks and Stones - Social Skills Show</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov Term 4 Week 7</td>
<td>16 Cookie dough due</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19 Kendall fun day</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Junior assembly</td>
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<td>Nov Term 4 Week 8</td>
<td>23 Junior choir sings</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Band visit 9:30am</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Swim school</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Volunteer morning tea</td>
<td>Senior assembly</td>
<td>29</td>
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Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the students who received an award at the Assembly on Friday 30/10/2015

IRON LION
3/4B: Cordelia

BRONZE LION
3-6M: Isabelle, Sarah, Dylan
3/4L: Zoey, Brent
5F: Tahlia

SILVER LION
3-6M: Clayton
3/4B: Elizabeth, Annabelle
3/4L: Jack, Madison, Jayden
3/4M: Rebekka, Bonnie, Cooper
5F: Michael
6A: Hayley
5A: Poppy

GOLD LION
3/4B: Miranda, Ella, Ava
3/4L: Hayley
6A: Elliot
6B: Cameron